

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus in a at least one node participating in a communication session for said node to initiate ~~initiating~~ a search for a radio station during a communication session comprising:

signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating ~~a~~ an initiation signal for said node to initiate said search when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is wireless.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus in a at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station by said node during a communication session comprising:

interference detection component for detecting the intensity of interference in the session; and

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comparator component for comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference and for generating an initiation signal for said node to initiate said search when increased intensity of interference indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is wireless.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

C/ 8. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus in a ~~at least one~~ node participating in a communication session for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is ~~are~~ performed by said node during a communication session comprising:

signal monitoring component for detecting the strength of the communication signal; and

comparator component for comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference and for generating a signal to alter the frequency of said monitoring by said node when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new radio station.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a wireless communication session.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is an ad hoc communication network session.

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12. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the communication session is a multi-hop wireless communication session.

13. (currently amended) A method performed by a at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station by said node during a communication session comprising the steps of said node:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;

comparing the detected strength of the signal to a predetermined reference; and

generating a initiation signal to initiate said search by said node when deterioration of the strength of the communication signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

14. (currently amended) A method performed by a at least one node participating in a communication session for initiating a search for a radio station by said node during a communication session comprising the steps of said node:

detecting the intensity of interference in the session;

comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined reference; and

generating an initiation signal to initiate said search by said node when increased intensity of interference indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

15. (currently amended) A method performed by a at least one node participating in a communication session for altering the frequency at which monitoring for radio stations is performed by said node during a communication session comprising the steps at said node of:

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detecting the strength of the communication signal; ~~and~~
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a
predetermined reference; and

generating a signal to alter the frequency of said
monitoring by said node when deterioration of the strength of the
communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new
radio station.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said altering
comprising increasing frequency of monitoring to search for radio
stations when the signal strength is less than a predetermined
reference and decreasing the frequency when the signal strength
exceeds the predetermined reference.

C/ 17. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by
machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search
for a radio station by a node during a communication session,
said method comprising the steps for said node of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a
predetermined reference; and

generating a initiation signal to initiate said search by
said node when deterioration of the strength of the communication
signal indicates the appearance of a new radio station.

18. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by
machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
by the machine to perform method steps for initiating a search
for a radio station by a node during a communication session,
said method comprising the steps for said node of:

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detecting the intensity of interference in the session;
comparing the intensity of interference to a predetermined
reference; and

generating an initiation signal to initiate said search by
said node when increased intensity of interference indicates the
appearance of a new radio station.

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19. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by
machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
by the machine to perform method steps for altering the frequency
at which monitoring for radio stations is performed by a node
during a communication session, said method comprising the steps
for said node of:

detecting the strength of the communication signal;
comparing the detected strength of the signal to a
predetermined reference; and

generating a signal to alter the frequency of said
monitoring by said node when deterioration of the strength of the
communication signal indicates the appearance of at least one new
radio station.

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